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THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

VOL. II, No. 3

March 1942

St. Louis, Mo.

SAVE YOUR COOP 58 CENTS FOR EVERY MILE

Does economy interest you?

Would you as a member or employee like to save your Cooperative 58 cents for every mile of line you have on your system?

Think what your system could do with this saving! Think of the Government Bonds it would buy!

Moreover you could eliminate untold suffering and sorrow, loss of production and other factors.

How can you save this money?

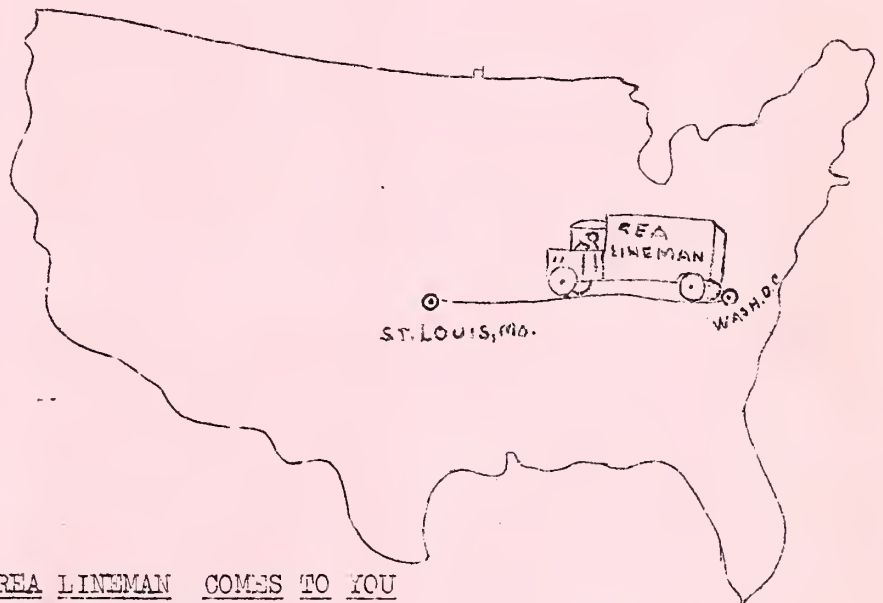
By eliminating electric shock accidents!

You may not think that a large order but we'll tell you ONE way to stop 83 per cent of them! BY WEARING RUBBER GLOVES. Simple, isn't it?

BURNS ARE ON THE HANDS in 83 per cent of all electric shock accidents. That should make (Turn to 58¢ Page 2)

Accident Epigrams

You May Forget To Be Careful Only Once.



REA LINEMAN COMES TO YOU FROM ST. LOUIS

This issue of "The Lineman" is coming to you from St. Louis, the new home of the Rural Electrification Administration. We are occupying ten floors of the Boatmen's Bank Building, 420 Locust Street, in the heart of the business section.

The transfer was made in two sections. Part of our organization went during the middle of March. The remainder moved at the end of the month. We continued to

function with a minimum of interruption, despite the moving.

The move was made necessary by the crowded conditions in Washington where new defense workers are arriving daily and more and more space is required. The problem, however, goes beyond mere space for offices. The matter of living space for the newcomers is also involved.

And so in the general movement to make room in the capital, the REA was among those selected to go.

SHORT STORIES
WITH MORALS

(Draw Your Own)

1. A laborer was piling 4-foot lengths of wood. It was wet and one piece slid back striking him in the face near the eye.

2. A lineman, going to trim trees, slipped on the ground and fell.

3. A laborer had a finger pierced by a thorn while using an axe.

4. A laborer was standing in the fork of a tree, sawing on a limb above his shoulder. The limb split back and presumably struck him. He fell 8 or 10 feet, striking his head near the left eye.

5. A laborer was digging holes with a crowbar in the cold Northwest. Although wearing mitts with woolen liners, his hand froze and went unnoticed until quitting time. The superintendent later reported that a nerve which finger was becoming numb. The injured man did not report the accident until the following day. The foreman held an advanced first aid card.

58¢ continued from Page 1
everyone think about rubber gloves. Not in a single case studied did the lineman intentionally touch what he thought was an energized primary conductor! Each one thought that gloves were not necessary!

There were many, many reasons why gloves were not worn but there is only one reason why they should be worn. In more than eight out of ten electric shock cases the man WILL GET BURNED ON THE HANDS! These figures and estimate of costs are gathered from an analysis of electric shock accidents to REA system employees during 1941.

To each superintendent, manager or foreman: Have you ever seen a lineman on a pole without his rubber gloves? Did you say anything to him about it? (Don't start blushing now because someone who has read this article may be looking at you.

And to the lineman: Have you ever worked on a pole carrying energized primaries without your rubber gloves? We won't ever ask you if you are blushing!

Many people think rubber gloves are not necessary until after an accident. Perhaps some will admit that gloves should be put on before approaching the first obstruction or low volt-

KILLED WHEN BULLET
CUTS LIGHT WIRE

A young Chicago man of 25 was killed recently while testing out his new rifle by firing at a glass insulator atop a light pole. The bullet cut the wire near the insulator and the wire, which carried 5,000 volts, fell upon him, causing instant death.

From "Home Safety"

age conductor.

We don't like to bore you with statistics but that is exactly what was supposed to have been done in 32 per cent of the electric shock hand accidents.

The half way up rule is a "half way rule." Our records prove that. It is not effective and does not work out. There is only one "100 per cent rule" and that is to PUT ON RUBBER GLOVES AND LEATHER PROTECTORS BEFORE CLIMBING THE POLE AND NOT TO REMOVE THEM UNTIL RETURNING TO THE GROUND.

If a lineman climbs a pole which has an energized wire (any voltage) without his rubber gloves he is deliberately violating the rule and there are absolutely no excuses. The entire REA Organization urges you to adopt and rigidly enforce the "100 per cent Rule." RUBBER GLOVES ARE A LINEMAN'S BEST LIFE INSURANCE.

Medical attention should be given all injuries in which the skin is broken, regardless of how minor they may appear.

DISCUSSION CASE #4

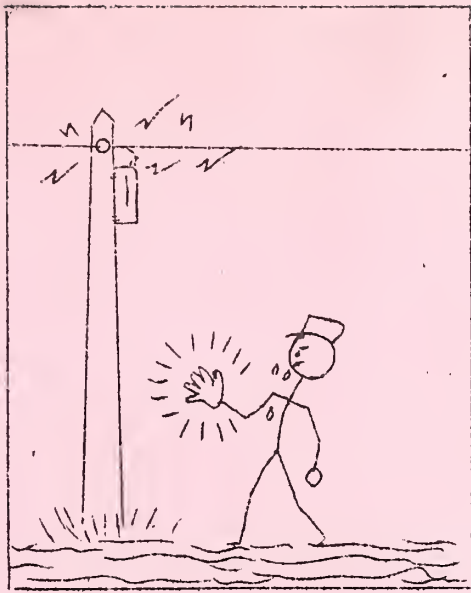
Following is the third of a series of descriptions of accidents and how to prevent them. It is suggested that these accidents be discussed at your Safety Meetings and that you forward any comments or criticisms you may have to the editor.

What do you think of this column? Would you like it presented in another way? Have you suggestions for improvement? Let's have your comments. This is YOUR paper!

A crew was setting meters on a new line. After setting the meter the lineman discovered this particular service was dead and patrolled back until he reached two adjacent A-6's. The A-6 nearest the consumer had no jumper on the phase wire. The lineman saw a piece of wire at the bottom of the pole which was presumably to be used as a jumper. He sent his helper to the A-6 pole nearest the feed to see if there was a jumper on that one. The lineman then proceeded to climb the pole.

Details of what actually happened are not known, but the lineman suffered burns which resulted in total disability.

As the lineman in-



structed the helper to see if a jumper was on the feed A-6 we can assume that the lineman thought the line might be energized, and concluded from this fact that he did not deliberately touch the energized primary. We suspect that he might have been attempting to measure the length of the jumper by putting it approximately in place. Inadvertently he then touched the energized primary.

QUESTIONS:

1. Do you always consider a conductor as being ENERGIZED if you do not see PROTECTIVE GROUNDS ON IT?
2. Do you work from a POSITION where it is IMPOSSIBLE TO TOUCH AN ENERGIZED PRIMARY?
3. Do you WEAR your RUBBER GLOVES when working on poles where the PRIMARYS ARE NOT GROUNDED?
4. Do you PUT ON YOUR

RUBBER GLOVES BEFORE CLIMBING THE POLE?

The answers should always be YES!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor of "The Lineman"

The February issue of "The REA Lineman" reaches a new high in value.

We use some safety education in each publication of our monthly news letter the "Watt News."

I am at present serving as Red Cross First Aid and Accident Prevention Instructor for two large classes. It seems to me REA people should cooperate with others in our communities to further these most important programs.

Six copies of "Until the Doctor Comes" would be greatly appreciated.

S. E. Iowa Co-Operative Electric Association-Warner A. Russell Project Superintendent.

To the editor of "The Lineman"

We are certainly glad to receive your "REA Lineman." It gives us many ideas.

(Continued on page 4)

THE REAL LINEMAN

Vol. II, No. 3

March, 1942

Published Monthly in the Interest of
Safety for Employees of REA Systems

David A. Fleming, Editor

MAN-POWER LOSS

(These accidents were reported to REA in January.)

DEAD

NON-REA SYSTEM EMPLOYEE
Workman at shell-loading
plant - Tex. 40 Bowie

DISABLED

REA SYSTEM EMPLOYEE
Vt. 7 Orleans - Vernon A.
Kennison, bruised eye.
Ill. 38 McLean - George
Mardaus, bruised hip.
Mo. 38 Reynolds - Henry
Harbison, inflammation
of finger; Tommie
Crites, left eye and
right arm bruised and
cut.
Idaho 17 Fremont - Laborer,
froze hand, may
lose fingers.

DISABLED

NON-REA SYSTEM EMPLOYEES
Bryant Elect. Co., N. C. -
Grune F. Jordan, body
cramps.
Sandberg & Johnson Const.
Co., Tex. - Chester
Lee, bruised knee; E.
E. Denton, sprained
back.

(Continued from page 3)

Wayne Hagerty, our
maintenance man, Delmer
DeJongh and Myron Shannon,
our assistant maintenance
men, Miss Minnie Gately,
bookkeeper, and I have
all completed the Red
Cross First Aid Course.
Will you therefore,
please send us our copies
of "Until the Doctor
Comes."

Lyon Rural

Electric Cooperative
John A. DeWild
Project Manager

FREQUENCY CHART DRAWERS' LETTERS

The Accidents Frequency Chart carried on page 5 of this issue already has brought replies from two regions. Region Six is satisfied with its position, but objects to the stance of the figure of Region Six. What the position of the figure and the expression on its face signify are a grim determination to stand right there throughout the year. As for the hat--well, if Region Six stays where it is now, we will let that region pick its own hat.

"Thank you for our copy of your report entitled Accident Frequency on REA Systems for the month of January.

"We are pleased to note that Region 6 is still on top. We certainly appreciate the graphic manner in which you have shown the conditions in the ten regions.

"We object to the stance assumed by the figure in Region 6! For instance, he is wide open to a right or left, and we don't like that type of hat!"

The report from Region Eight expresses its sentiments in verse--and not bad verse, as you can see. We are glad to give it space in "The Lineman," and "hope the brakes....set with right good will" keep its place on that hill.

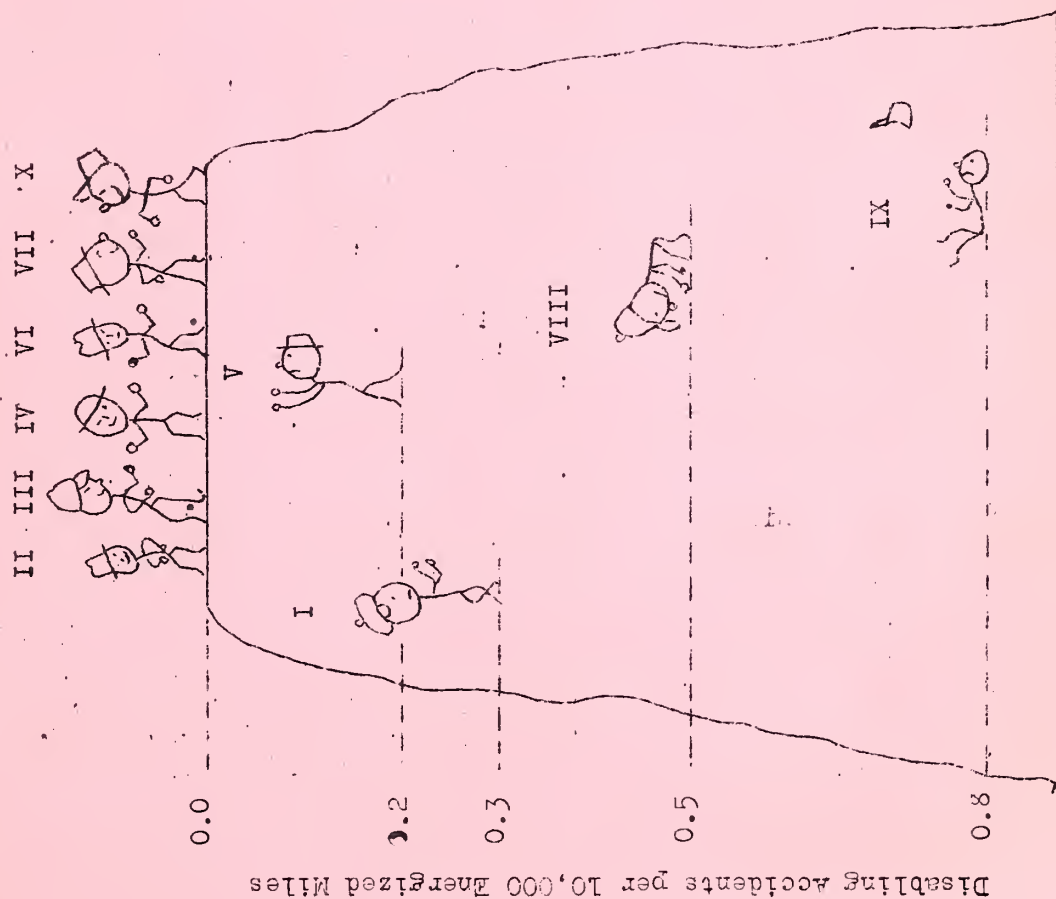
The reply follows:

"Your chart shows that our back is bent
And Region 8 downhill was sent
Our smooth machine has slipped a cog
With safety program in a fog
We cannot pull back up that hill
But brakes are set with right good will
Determined now that come what may
Right where we are is where we stay."

Money talks! United States Gov't
Savings Bonds and Stamps shout

"Victory!"

ACCIDENT FREQUENCY ON REA SYSTEMS Employees Only First Month



Four of you have started down
From accidents upon the ground.
One froze his hand, one hit his head.
One got infection - but none are dead.

The rest of you, still on the top.
Should heed this warning or you'll drop.
The load is tough - it's our intention
To ask your help with our prevention.

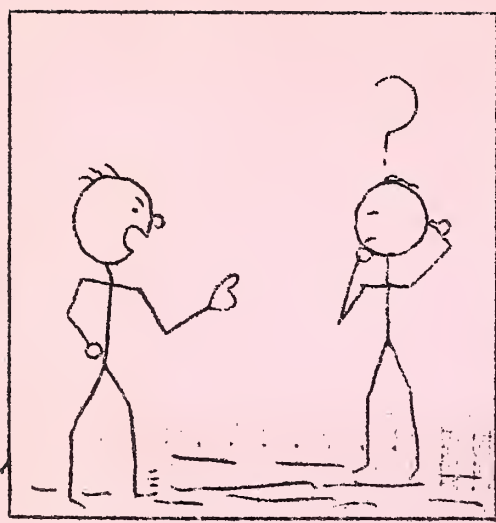
Below you'll find another chart
Comparing you with last year's start.
Please look at it and then be pensive
For accidents are QUITE EXPENSIVE.

REGION	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
I	0.3	0.0
II	0.0	0.0
III	0.0	0.3
IV	0.0	0.0
V	0.2	0.0
VI	0.0	0.4
VII	0.0	0.0
VIII	0.5	0.0
IX	0.8	0.0
X	0.0	0.0

A RHYME WITH A REASON

BY

"THE RED LINEMAN"



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
COLUMN

This department is receiving questions but some apparently are waiting for the "other fellow." Let's have your questions! We know we're sticking our necks out. We'll tell you when so many come in we can't answer them. Our crystal ball may not always know the answer but we'll shake it up and do our damdest to get that answer.

Question

We have a job of tightening the hardware on the poles. Our men want to tighten the hardware by hand while using rubber gloves and keep the primaries energized. Is this a good practice?

Answer

This and similar types of work performed in accordance with the procedure in question has resulted in many serious electric shock accidents, including some which were fatal. The method in question requires a lineman to assume a dangerous
(Continued on page 7)

I'll tell you my story, as queer as it seems,
One night long ago I had very strange dreams.
I'd taken a trip where there's never no snow,
A place where some linemen will finally go.

Down there, I saw pals I had known through the years,
Joe Hardy was speaking amidst many cheers.
He gave me a message to bring back to you
To tell you of many things you shouldn't do.

I said to him, "Such things had often been told
But somehow or other they never took hold."
Well! You should have seen him when I told him that
He yelled and he cursed and he stamped on his hat!

"Will they never learn?" (He was starting to shout)
"What happened to us should clear up any doubt!"
I said, "Yes I know, but you've one of the guys
Who thought that the safety men were not so wise.

You'd been at the game and for many a year
Of primary wires you never had fear,
And wear rubber gloves! You'd exclaim with a frown
And then what is worse before leaving the ground!

And Jack is the fellow who knew it was dead.
For hadn't he seen where the primaries led?
So what was the need of a ground for protection!
He'd checked the line o'er and he knew to perfection

And Henry's the fellow who got in a stew
Because of a little job he had to do.
Then Bill climbed the pole without making a test.
Now he says to 'Probe it..for that's always best.'

"Oh yes!" They all cried, "But we will be content
If you'll tell the boys that we really lament.
We'll all stand the heat from this terrible fire
If talking of safety you never will tire."

I 'woke with alarm and Oh Boy! Did I sweat!
And said to myself "It was something I et."
But I couldn't sleep and in spite of the hour
The thought of that dream had just left my mind sour.

I thought of the chances I had often taken.
And my self esteem? It was pretty well shaken.
I'll carry the torch for you Joe, have no fear
I'll even become a Safe-T-Engineer.

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from Page 6)

So I had a talk with the Man at the top.
Said I, "Accidents I am going to stop!
Well, he wished me luck and said "Hang up your hooks."
I answered him "No, I won't teach it from books.

I'll study the accidents. Then I will know
In what direction my efforts should go.
No matter how tough it is I'll never flinch.
And linemen, I know, are quite hard to convince."

I've looked at this job from a strict lineman's angle.
(With some of the brass hats I often would tangle)
Yet sometimes the linemen will give me a ride
If only they knew I am still on their side!

Well, I wrote a paper so all that could read
Would see other's errors and from that take heed.
But somehow this paper has added no cheer.
They'd always reply "That it can't happen here!"

To linemen a practice then I will present.
I'll base it on accidents they can prevent.
And I'll make it practical as you will see
If YOU will review Memo two, two point three.*

I'll tell you before hand and I know it's true.
Included is nothing which you cannot do!
Of my best intentions you should have no doubt.
And your accidents merely help bear it out.

With some of the things sure you may not agree.
And IF that is so send your comments to me.
But I'll warn you now before anything's sent.
The whole thing is based just on YOUR accidents.

The heart of this Memo is in Section B
And Paragraphs 7, 6, 5, 4, and 3
When you read it over take a count of stock
For IF it is followed you'll never get shocked.

I've just had a message it come from Old Joe.
(And he is a fellow who sure ought to know)
He tells me that safety would go better with-'im
If some of the stuff could be put into rhythm.

And so for his sake I will try just this time
To send you a MESSAGE and put it in rhyme
Yet some of you, probably, NEVER WILL HEED IT
But I think Joe's right--YOU'LL DAMN WELL AND READ IT!

*Operations Memorandum No. 22.3

There are no "rookie" dollars. Send yours to the
front! Buy U.S. Government Bonds and Stamps!

Questions

(Continued from Page 6)

working position.

In regard to rubber gloves, we know of no manufacturer or recognized authority such as the National Safety Council or the American Society for Testing Materials which recommends the use of rubber gloves alone as adequate protection against voltages exceeding 3000 to ground. You may question our recommendation that rubber gloves be worn at all times when working on poles carrying energized conductors but our purpose is to prevent low voltage electric shock, hand accidents and inadvertant contacts with primary conductors.

The safest procedure to be used when tightening hardware is to de-energize the primary wires and install protective grounds. Should it be impractical to de-energize the lines, we strongly urge that the work be performed with live line tools. Rubber gloves should be worn, of course. Open end wrenches or socket wrenches which will fit over the protruding bolt are available from live line tool manufacturers. The wrenches may be attached to not sticks (8 foot). In this manner the work may be performed from a remote position where it is impossible for a lineman to touch an energized primary conductor even if he should slip, fall or inadvertently move.

SAFETY AND JOB TRAINING

TOOLS

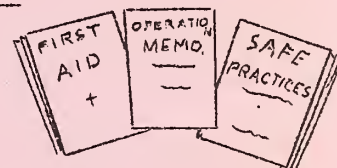


OUR



SCHOOL HOUSE

BOOKS



In the future we will devote an entire page of each issue to news and activities of the State REA Safety and Job Training Program. Have you any ideas for a mast head? What would you like on this page? Has your state committee or supervisor an idea or a wrinkle which will be helpful to other States? Supervisors pick up bits of "news" which must be interesting (We are afraid the jokes will be censored). How do you feel about the Supervisors writing an occasional article? Let us hear from you. Here is a chance to show what you are accomplishing..

To bring you up to date, five more supervisors are in the field in addition to our two pioneers, "SLIM" Ehmsen of Ohio and "OLD BEN" Snively of Illinois.

A SAFE-T-TOAST to the new men! They are H. H. Minet-Michigan, L. C. Meyer-Minnesota, Jack Huddleston, and E. F. Nauert-Texas and Kenneth Mostoller-Wisconsin. Don't let the handles of "Slim" and "Old Ben" fool you. Slim (who is 6'6") feels embarrassed

TO ALL STATE SUPERVISORS!

Have you received the letters about voltage limitations of rubber gloves and tightening hardware also your copy of Operations Memorandum No. 22.2?

We will appreciate each state supervisor forwarding us a mailing address. Some of you may be home every weekend. If so forward that address. We would like some address where you can receive your mail at least once a week. Keep us informed of your itineraries. We may drop in some day!

when you talk about his height. He says he is 5'18" !

"Old Ben" says, "Follow me around for one week ! I'll show these young-uns a thing or three! By the way, has "Old Ben" told you fellows in Illinois about how they patrol Hi-lines in Canada? Was it the wolves that chased him up the pole? We'll write a feature about that some day!"

In addition to the new State Supervisors we have four committees functioning:

Iowa-Ben Jaspers - Secretary, c/o Hardin County Rural Electric Cooperative, Iowa Falls;

Alabama-Basil Thompson Chairman, c/o Central Alabama Electric Cooperative, Prattville;

Mississippi-Frank R. Price, Chairman, Magnolia Electric Power Association, McComb;

Kentucky, William C. Dale, Chairman, c/o Shelby Rural Electric Cooperative, Corporation, Shelbyville.

At the time this was written the State Supervisors had not been selected. If you believe you can qualify, contact the secretary or chairman of the committees. Applicants should have at least ten years of linework, half of which should have been as a successful supervisor or foreman. In addition the supervisor should be an approved first aid instructor. More details may be obtained from the committee.